ファンタジスタ
SS comics
NUMBER 15
FANTASISTA
MICHITERU KUSABA
草場道輝
Grazie al lavoro di Teppei, il Liceo Mizumoto ha agguantato l'accesso alla finale del torneo preliminare. Adesso, l'avversaria da affrontare è il temibile Liceo Jonan, guidato da Saigo. Che la lotta abbia inizio!
小学館
SHOGAKUKAN

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MICHITERU KUSABA
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Through Teppei's fine playing, Mizumoto High School has at long last advanced to the Finals. Looming ahead, lead by Saigou, is the prestigious Jounan High School. Head to head with their greatest enemy!!

素晴らしきジョカトーレ達

ルイス・フィーゴ
LUIS FIGO

［サッカー選手］

ルイス・フィーゴ。ポルトガル出身で現在世界一のクラブチームと言われるスペインのレアル・マドリードでプレーをしており、一昨年バロンドールを獲得した選手です。
彼のドリブルフェイントは相手との間合いを計り、一瞬、静から動へ…格闘技にたとえるならボクシングというよりも日本の柔道や剣道といった感じでしょうか。
そして日本刀のような凄味でピンポイントにあげてくるクロスボール。
…なんか日本のことでたとえてしまいましたが、なぜならフィーゴ選手は日本のことを好いてくれてるからです。嬉しいですね。
彼がバルセロナで和食屋を開いていたというのは有名な話？

草場道輝
SHORT STORY
MICHITERU KUSABA

只今、W杯真っ最中ー 全試合はさすがに無理ですが一日2試合は観ていますー 観させてください担当様ー
漫画はちゃんと描いてますー フランスまさかの初戦黒星ー
イタリアがクロアチアに逆転負けー
ブラジル順当に勝ち上がり、でもトルコ好きかもー！
日本・韓国嬉しい初勝利ー ああ、この後どうなるんだろうー
…しまったー 考えてみればこの巻が出るのはW杯が終わって半月後だー
W杯熱も冷めてる頃だー この温度差はちょっと恥ずかしいかもー
いや、この興奮を反芻するのもまたいいかも!!

COVER DESIGN;ZUNIGA-RYOJI YAMAGUCHI

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ファンタジスタ

FANTASISTA NUMBER 15

草場道輝
MICHITERU KUSABA

小学館
SHOGAKUKAN

Synopsis

- of the series up until now -

ADVANCING THROUGH THE HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL TOURNAMENT TOKYO REGIONALS, THE MIZUMOTO ELEVEN MADE IT TO THE SEMI-FINALS OF THE FINAL TOURNAMENT. THEIR OPPONENT THERE, RYOUTOU HIGH SCHOOL, IS THE TEAM OF YAMAHAMI, A JAPAN YOUTH ALL-STAR JUST LIKE TEPPEI, AGAINST RYOUTOU, WITH HARDCORE SIDE ATTACKS BUILT AROUND YAMAHAMI. MIZUMOTO MADE USE OF CLEVER COMBINATIONS FOR THEIR ATTACKS.COMING BACK AFTER A 0 - 0 FIRST HALF, AND AS THE TEAMS ATTACKED BACK AND FORTH, TEPPEI WAS FEELING THE WILL CONNECTING HIM TO HIS TEAMMATES GETTING STRONGER BIT BY BIT. EMPLOYING THEIR COMBINED WILL, THE EXQUISITE PASSWORK OF TEPPEI AND KASUKABE BLEW APART RYOUTOU'S DEFENSES. TAKING CONTROL OF THE MATCH, THEY STOLE TWO SWEEPING GOALS!!

★ Synopsis ★

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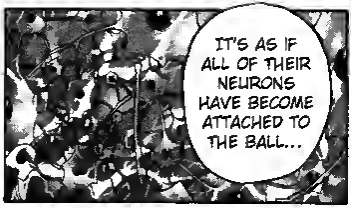
■草場道輝■

OUR SCHOOL WAS THIS GOOD?
WELL, DIRECTOR SAKAMOTO HAS A FOOTBALL INSTRUCTOR'S LICENSE, RIGHT?
MIZU-MOTO'S 2ND GOAL!!
SECOND HALF, 17 MINUTES...
SFX: YAA AAAAAY
REA-LLY?
AND THEY'VE GOT THE DIREC-TOR'S YOUNGER BROTH-ER...
HE WAS CHOSEN AS A JAPAN ALL-STAR WHEN HE PLAYED FOR THE YOUTHS BEFORE.
Chapter 124
The Cross Put Up
1

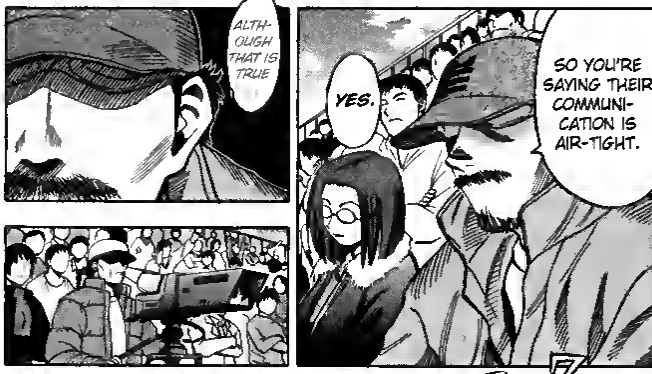

IT'S AS IF ALL OF THEIR NEURONS HAVE BECOME ATTACHED TO THE BALL...

ALL THE PLAYERS ON THE MIZUMOTO TEAM ARE TOTALLY IN SYNC.

What I mean to say is
THAT IS A LITTLE OVER-BOARD

Chapter 124

The Cross Put Up

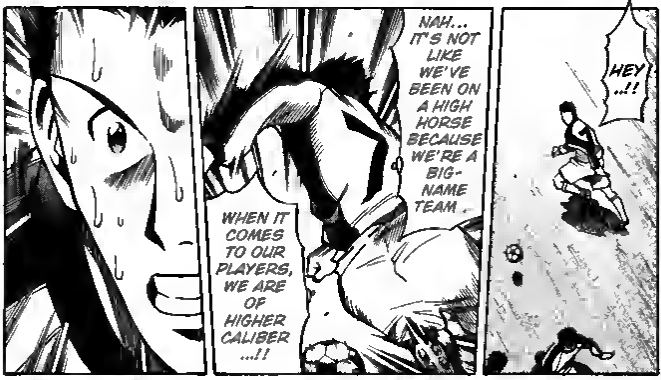

ALTHOUGH THAT IS TRUE
YES.
SO YOU'RE SAYING THEIR COMMUNICATION IS AIR-TIGHT.

SFX: WOOOO WOOOO
I GUESS THEY'VE ALL COME HERE TO SEE THEIR FORMER ALL-STAR TEAMMATES' PERFORMANCE
AND IT'S ONLY THE SEMIS
THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE GALLERY

SFX: Y...A.A.

AREN'T THEY JUST SAKAMOTO'S NO-NAME TEAM!?
WHY ...!?

4


NAH... IT'S NOT LIKE WE'VE BEEN ON A HIGH HORSE BECAUSE WE'RE A BIG-NAME TEAM.
HEY ...!!
WHEN IT COMES TO OUR PLAYERS, WE ARE OF HIGHER CALIBER ...!!

5

THIS LOSER IS ACTING SNOTTY ABOUT EVERYTHING!!
SFX: BAMM

SFX: SWOOF SWOOF

SFX: SWOOF SWOOF
I WONDER IF KONDO IS OK ...
I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO SAY

A PUNY FIRST-YEAR ACTING SO UPPITY!

DON'T FORGET THAT THEY'RE PUNISHING US COLLECTIVELY FOR YOUR ACTIONS
IT'S 15 LAPS.
IT'S LIKE A TRADITION THIS FOOTBALL TEAM HAS ITS OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS
As long as we're still first and second-years, we just have to lay low, I guess.
NOOO, IDIOT, THE THIRD-YEARS ARE LOOKING THIS WAY!!
KON DOI?
!?
I QUIT.
MORONS, LETTING THESE FIRST AND SECOND-YEARS JUST SIT AND ROT...
A HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM MEANS NOTHING ...
IT'S ALL A MATTER OF WHETHER OR NOT I CAN IMPROVE ON MY OWN!

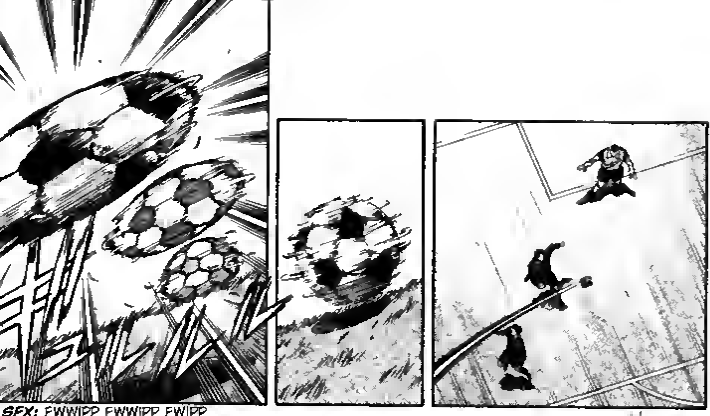
!!
OVER HERE...!!
SFX: SWOO
TOH-SAN!
SFX: THWAKK
TAKING ON SAKAMOTO, A RETURN TO YAMA-NAMI!!
YA-MA-NA-MI!
SFX: ZOONF
!!
ERGH
JUST WATCH, KONDO...
.....

DON'T LET HIM MOVE UP!!
I'M DOING GREAT THINGS WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL THAT YOU LEFT BEHIND
I'LL BEAT SAKAMOTO, THE ONE YOU ACKNOWL-EDGE...
AND LOOKED DOWN ON ..
SFX: THOOOM
AND SHOW YOU I CAN GET TO NA-TION-ALS!!
WITH THAT STRANGE POSTURE ...!?
!!

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO TRY AND CONTROL THE BALL WITH YOUR FEET RATHER THAN YOUR HANDS.
FOOTBALL IS A SPORT BASED ON MISTAKES...
ANY BIG NAME PLAYER HAS MISSED A TRAP OR A SHOT.
IF ONE IS TO POINT OUT A WAY TO LOWER THE AMOUNT OF MISTAKES YOU MAKE...
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PLAYERS WHO MAKE FEWER MISTAKES AREN'T THE BIG NAME PLAYERS.
MIZUNO

I WAS THINKING OF PUTTING UP ENDLESS CROSSES FOR A WHOLE DAY.

IT WOULD BE THROUGH PERSISTENT PRACTICE, DAY IN AND DAY OUT.
10


SFX: FWWIPP FWWIPP FWIPP

THAT MOVE IS HARDER THAN GETTING THE BALL THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE.
PULLING THE DEFENDERS OFF AND GOING TOWARDS OPEN SPACE...
FALLING BETWEEN THE DEFENDERS AND GOALKEEPER, THE BALL IS BOUNCING AND ESCAPING TO THE OUTSIDE!

WHOA...
KONDO, WHILE YOU SAY YOU'VE SACRIFICED EVERYTHING TO BECOME A BETTER PLAYER WITH THE J-LEAGUE...
I'VE SPENT THREE YEARS HONING THIS MOVE!

SFX: SWOONF
COUN-
TER
!!

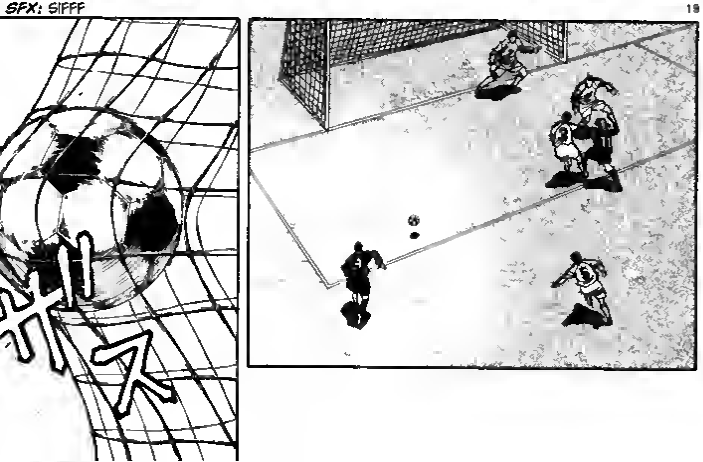
THE CAPTAIN, OKAMOTO, IS UP AGAINST SAKAMOTO!!
GHH
GET BACK ...!!
KASUKABE IN THE CENTER AND BABA FARTHER DOWN!!
4 ON 3! SAKAMOTO IS ROLLING TO THE RIGHT!!

SFX: SHOOPAAAAAAAAM
17
A GROUNDER! IS THAT MEANT FOR KASUKABE ...!?
GGRR
YUTA ...

DON'T SHOOT ...!!

3

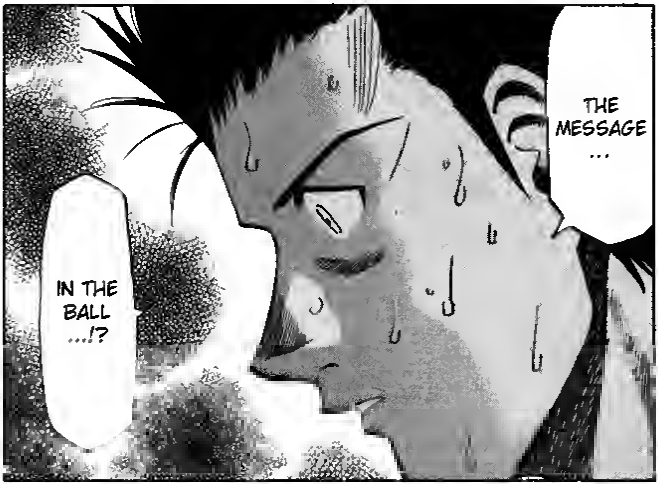
SFX: SIFFF



I UNDER-STOOD IT, MAN!
THE MESSAGE WAS IN THE BALL ...!!
SFX: WAHAHAHAH
わはは!
IF YOU HAD WANTED ME TO SHOOT, YOU WOULD HAVE GIVEN ME A BETTER PASS!!

20

GOOOOOO AAAAAAL! MIZUMOTO'S THIRD!!!
NICE SHOT, BABA ...!!
YUUU TA!
SFX: WAAAAAAAAAAAAAH


THE MESSAGE ...
IN THE BALL ...!?

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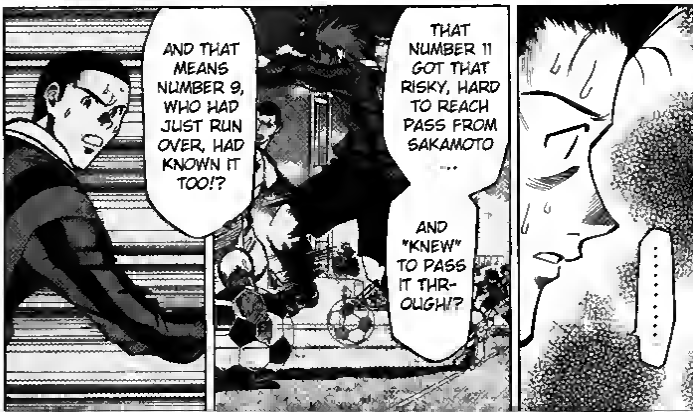
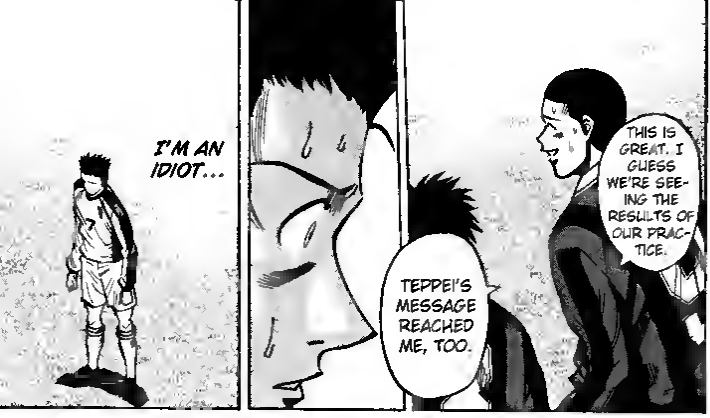
124

Chapter 125
The Meaning of "Will"
THE HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL TOURNAMENT TOKYO PRELIMINARY SEMIFINAL. 30 MINTUES INTO THE SECOND HALF, MIZUMOTO GET THEIR THIRD GOAL! 3 - 0! WITH THIS THE GAME IS ALL BUT DECIDED!

SFX: YAAAAY
I UNDERSTOOD IT, MAN! THE MESSAGE WAS IN THE BALL!!
THE MESSAGE ...
IN THE BALL ...!?
陵東
7

2


AND THAT MEANS NUMBER 9, WHO HAD JUST RUN OVER, HAD KNOWN IT TOO!?
THAT NUMBER 11 GOT THAT RISKY, HARD TO REACH PASS FROM SAKAMOTO ...
AND "KNEW" TO PASS IT THROUGH!?
.....


I'M AN IDIOT...
TEPPEI'S MESSAGE REACHED ME, TOO.
THIS IS GREAT. I GUESS WE'RE SEEING THE RESULTS OF OUR PRACTICE.

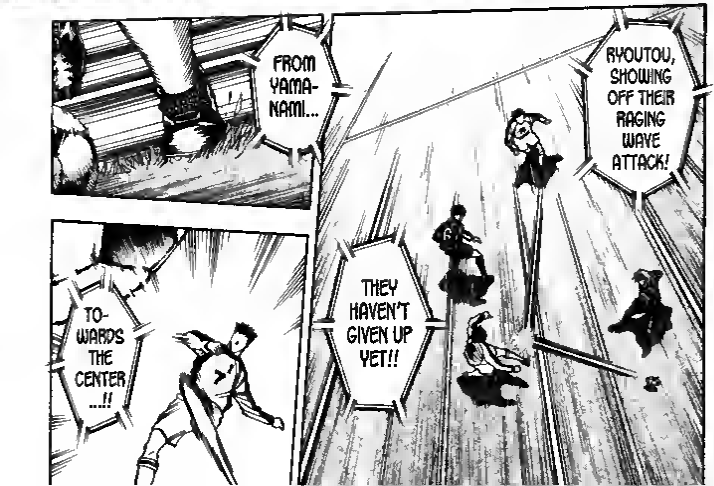
3

SFX: DASH

AT THE YOUTH ALL-STARS... THAT WAS THE NUMBER ONE CONCEPT DIRECTOR VAN GAREN WANTED TO INSTILL IN US!!

.....
OKA-
MO-
TO...
GRAP
...!!
SFX: YAAAAAAAY
WELL, THERE ARE STILL TEN MINUTES REMAIN-ING.. CAN THEY PRO-DUCE A GOAL LIKE THIS!?
PIIH
...PUT A MESSAGE INTO THE BALL....HUH.

THIS IS NOT OVER YET!!
IN AN ALL-STAR MATCH, OR IN THIS MATCH...
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PUT UP A FIGHT RIGHT OFF THE BAT!!
EVEN IF YOU ARE ON THE BENCH YOU HAVE TO ACT AS IF YOU ARE UP THERE WITH THE TEAM.
IF NOT, ONCE YOU'RE PUT INTO THE GAME...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I WAS LEARNING FROM SAKAMOTO ALL ALONG...
THE MESSAGE WAS IN THE BALL...!!
I UNDERSTOOD IT, MAN!
...

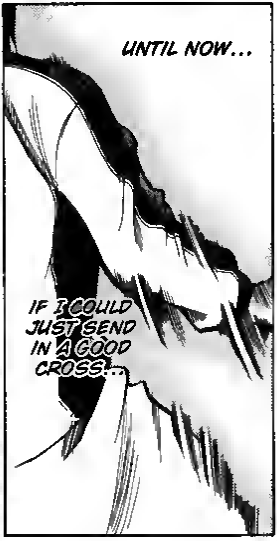

FROM YAMANAMI...
RYOUTOU, SHOWING OFF THEIR RAGING WAVE ATTACK!
THEY HAVEN'T GIVEN UP YET!!
TOWARDS THE CENTER...!!

SFX: POOMP
SFX: WHOOSH
!?
SFX: DOONF
GRR
HE KNOCKED IT BACK!
KO-BA-YA-SHI!
SFX: SSSBOOMP
GR
RRR
PH

THE FORWARD, YOKO'O, MOVES UP!
HE CROSSES IT BACK ...!!
RYOU-TOU'S SENJU PICKS IT UP.
THE KEEPER PUNCHES IT OUT!!
7
KOSAKA WITH A CRITICAL CLEAR-ANCE!
A FIERCE SHOT WITH THE INSIDE OF THE FOOT FROM THE EDGE OF THE PENALTY AREA!!
ハラ
ハラ

MIZU-MOTO IS FIGHTING TOOTH AND NAIL ...!!
MIZUMOTO
AFTER SEEING RYOUTOU'S HEAVY ASSAULT CONTINUE!
WE FEEL EMBARRASSED FOR EVEN UTTERING THE WORDS 'GIVE UP'...

BUT I'VE LEARNED FROM SAKAMOTO
I THOUGHT IT WOULD MAKE THE TEAM STRONGER

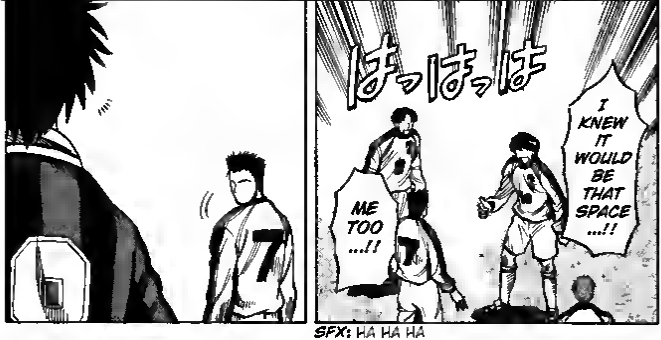

UNTIL NOW...
IF I COULD JUST SEND IN A GOOD CROSS...

THERE'S SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE PRECISION OF A CROSS...

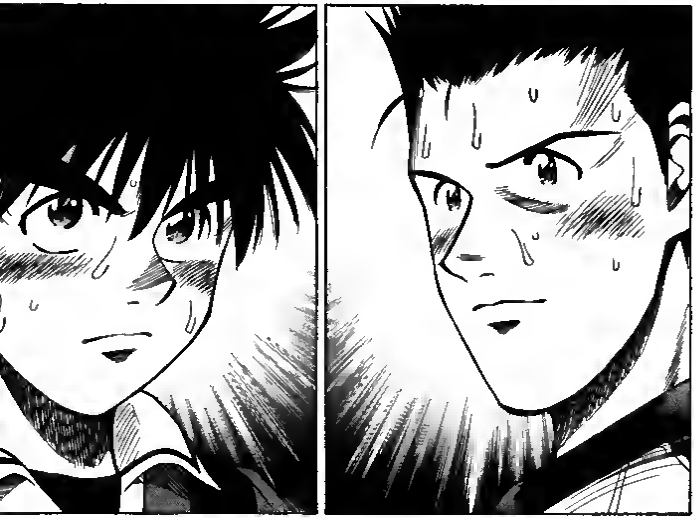
I ONLY NOW FIGURED IT OUT... PUTTING YOUR WILL INTO THE BALL MEANS...

BELIEVING IN YOUR TEAMMATES ...?!
11
10
YA-MA-NA-MI!
18

GO
OOO
OOO
OOO
AL!!
36 MINUTES AFTER THE START OF THE SECOND HALF, RYOU-TOU SCORES AT LONG LAST!! 3 - 1!!
SFX: YAAAAAAAAAAAAY
SFX: WAAAAAAH
I KNEW YOU WOULD
NICE PASS...!
YOK O'O...!!
12



SFX: HA HA HA



SFX: THUMP

SFX: STARE

SFX: THOOF
WE KNOW! LET'S NOT LOSE OUR CURRENT LEVEL OF CONCEN-TRATION.
THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD HAVE DONE ABOUT THAT HIT !!
THEIR ATTACK WAS GOOD.

YEAH.

HMM...
Please...

SFX: WHHOOOOOOA

15

IT'S UP TO YOU!!
WILL PULL TO-GETHER THE HOPES OF THE TEAM!!
SFX: THWACK
SFX: BOONF
THE OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE STRUGGLES OF BOTH TEAMS CONTINUE! THIS TIME, IT'S MIZU-MOTO'S TURN TO ATTACK!

17

SFX: WAAAAAAAH

SFX: BAAA-IIIING
SAKAMOTO'S SHOT BOUNCES OFF THE BAR!!

YAMANAMI MOVES DIFFER-ENTLY NOW...
THE TEAM HAS GOTTEN COORDI-NATED...
IT'S JUST ...
PIH
!
PIH
IT TOOK YAMANAMI A LITTLE TOO LONG TO SEE IT.
PIH

MIZUMOTO
THE MATCH IS OVER!!
SFX: WAAAAAAAAH
3 - 1!! IN THE BATTLE BETWEEN TWO OF JAPAN'S YOUTH ALL-STARS, SAKAMOTO-LED MIZUMOTO IS DECLARED THE VICTOR!!
陸東
4

SFX: CLAP CLAP CLAP

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125

Chapter 126

The Opponent in the Final

IN THE HIGH SCHOOL NATIONALS, SEMIFINAL MATCH TO DECIDE THE TOKYO B TEAM, ...
MIZUMOTO HIGH SCHOOL BESTED RYOUTOU HIGH SCHOOL, 3 - 1, SECURING THEIR ADVANCE TO THE FINAL!
SFX: YAAAAAAAAAAAY
SFX: CLAP CLAP CLAP

THE 'EXTERNAL' RYOUTOU AGAINST THE 'INTERNAL' MIZUMOTO... HUH.

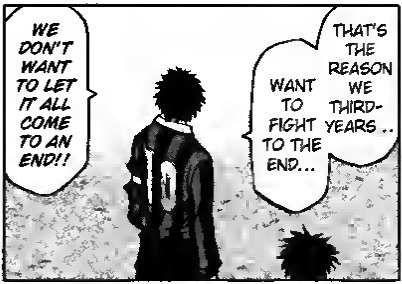
THROUGH BRILLIANT COORDINATION, THEY HELD THE MIDFIELD,
AND AS A RESULT MIZUMOTO GOT THE GODDESS OF VICTORY ON THEIR SIDE
AND STOPPED THE 'EXTERNAL' YAMANAMI FROM PERFORMING
YAMANAMI...
2

I...
HAVEN'T BEEN CONTACTED BY THE PROS YET, BUT WHEN I GO PRO ...
THAT TIME AROUND, I WANT TO LET THE 'TEAM' WIN.
3
YOU'VE GOT A GOOD TEAM, SAKAMOTO.
HONESTLY SPEAKING...
PUT SOME EXTRA EFFORT IN IT FOR US TOO.
IT'S LIKE, THIS LOSS WAS MORE DEPRESSING THAN WHEN WE LOST TO ITALY NOW...
AND MAKE IT TO NATIONALS!!

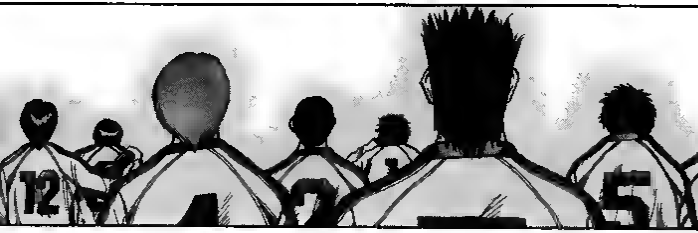
A HIGH SCHOOL TEAM IS FOR THREE YEARS.
THE ALL-STAR CAMP TEAM WAS A WEEK OF MY LIFE AT MOST.

THE MEMORIES OF WORKING HARD THOSE THREE YEARS MADE ME SAY THAT TO YOU.

4

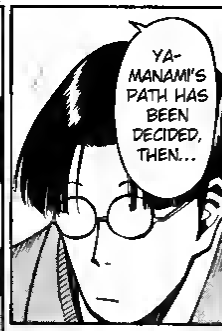

WE DON'T WANT TO LET IT ALL COME TO AN END!!
THAT'S THE REASON WE THIRD-YEARS .. WANT TO FIGHT TO THE END...

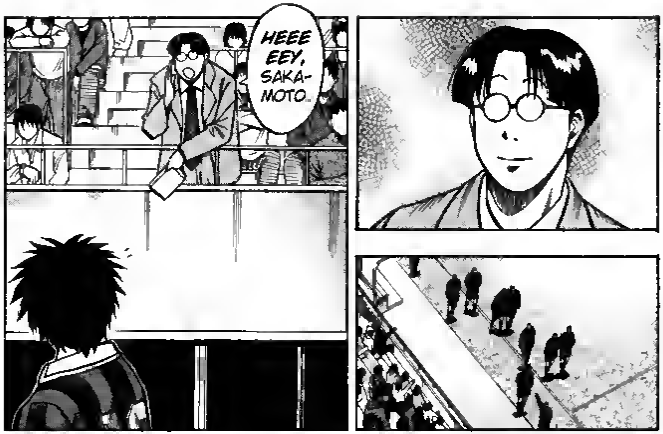
Yeah

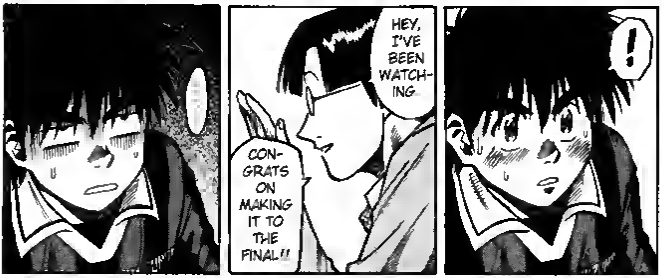


NOTE: YOKOHAMA S. J-LEAGUE TEAM

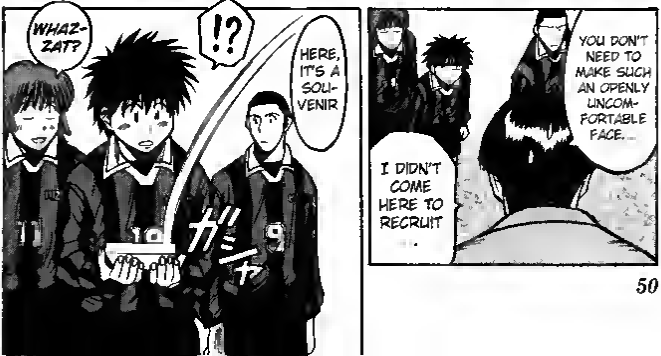
WELL, I GUESS ... BUT HE'S A GREAT PLAYER IF HE'S UP FOR IT, I THINK WE SHOULD TRY ASKING HIM TO JOIN!!
Yeah? These must be the guys from Yokohama Marinos!




HEEE EEY, SAKA-MOTO..


HEY, I'VE BEEN WATCH-ING
CON-GRATS ON MAKING IT TO THE FINAL!!
!

6


WHAZ-ZAT?
!?
HERE, IT'S A SOU-VENIR
ガシャ
YOU DON'T NEED TO MAKE SUCH AN OPENLY UNCOM-FORTABLE FACE...
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO RECRUIT

I WAS IN ITALY.
IM-PORTS ...!?
A VIDEO ...?
NOTHING, REALLY. . JUST A FOOTBALL VIDEO, THAT'S ALL.
You don't know that
Of course not
WHAT IS IT ...?
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT ..?
WELL
MEH, IT'S NOT PORN
WELL, I'VE GOT WORK TO DO, SO, I'M OFF.
YOU ARE LATE ...!
Sor ry
OH, AND SAY HI TO YOUR SISTER FOR ME

JOUNAN VS KEIYOKU
1ST
2ND
TOTAL
45
SFX: YEEEEEEEEEAH
HOWEVER, JOUNAN IS MOVING WELL, AS ALWAYS.
So arrogant
WHICH IS IT? WHICH OF THE TWO GETS TO BE OUR NEXT OPPONENT?
6
SFX: SWOOF SWOOF
THEY'VE GOT SOLID COORDINATION AND THEIR MIDFIELD PRESS IS QUICK...
SHIFT
SAI GOU ..!!

OK, LET'S GO!!
LIKE ALWAYS... HE'S JUST IN THE RIGHT SPOT.
HE CAN PREDICT GAPS AND HIS ABILITY TO SQUASH THEM IS EXACTLY LIKE SPAIN'S NATIONAL TEAM PLAYER, HIERRO.
SFX: SA-WHOOSH
SFX: BWOOM
SAIGOU WITH AN INSIDE PASS TO TAKA-SUGI!
TAKA-SUGI, THE SOURCE OF THEIR ATTACKS.
HIGH POST IN FRONT OF THE GOAL!!
SFX: GULP
SUCH A STRONG BENCH...
HE'S HUU-UUGE! AND ALSO TALL ...!!
THEY'VE ALWAYS HAD THIS GUY!?
MIZUMOTO

THERE IS NO QUES-TION!
OUR NEXT OPPO-NENT IS JOUNAN ...!!
GO OO OO AL!
FROM SAIGOU AT THE BACK END WITH ONLY A TWO-TOUCH!!
10 MINUTES FROM THE START, JOUNAN SCORES FIRST!!
SFX: WAAAA
!?
WHOO... I'M BLOWN AWAY..
10

ME TOO!
GODDAMN! JUST IMAGINING GOING AGAINST THEM, I FORGOT TO BREATHE!!

PWA AAA AAH!

HNN NN?

UMM, DIRECTOR, WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ...?

We're obviously going to win!!

SORRY, CAN WE TRY THAT AGAIN?
THE WINNER WILL BE MIZU-MOTO ...!!
SFX: GULP ドクン

WE'VE ALREADY BEEN BEATEN BLOODY ONCE, YOU KNOW
Is this good ...?
Sigh
YESSS! WE'RE #!!!
THE DIRECTOR SAID SO TOO!!
YEA AAA AH!!
BUT WE'RE OK, WITH THE PLAN I'VE THOUGHT UP...

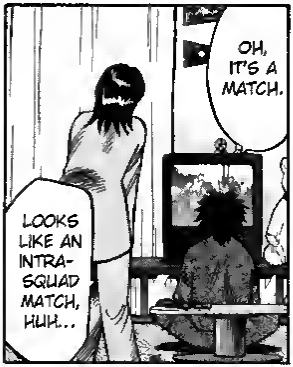
GAME OVER! 2 - 0!! JOUNAN SECURES THEIR ADVANCEMENT TO THE FINAL BY A WIDE MARGIN!!
WE'LL LET THEM WIN.
SFX: WAAA
SFX: PIPIPIIIIIIH
13
THE FINAL TO DECIDE THE TOKYO B TEAM IN ONE WEEK,
WILL BE A BATTLE BETWEEN MIZUMOTO HIGH SCHOOL AND JOUNAN HIGH SCHOOL!
SAKA MOTO

14

THE PERSON WHO CAME WITH THE SCOUT FROM MILAN...
WHAT WAS IT, FUJII?
BEEP
HE GAVE ME THIS VIDEO.

SFX: KATUNK
You must be worn out from today
MEH
TEPPEI, WHY DON'T YOU GO TO BED ...?

SFX: VEEEEE
ウィーン
WHAT, YOU WATCHING SOMETHING?


OH, IT'S A MATCH.
LOOKS LIKE AN INTRA-SQUAD MATCH, HUH...

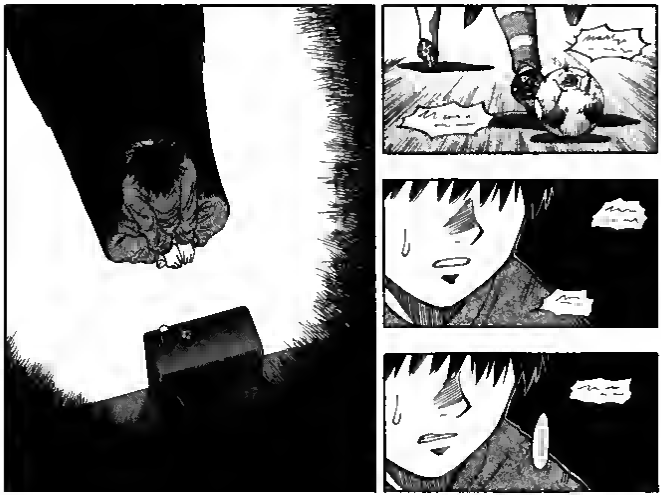
.....
HNN NN...

15

SFX: THUNK
ROBE

TEPPEI, MAKE IT TO BED AT A DECENT TIME.
OK.
I'M TURNING IN.

16



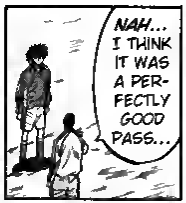
11月
月 火 水 木 金 土 日
X X X X X X X
X X X X X X X
X X X X X X X
X X X X X X X
X 25 29 30 1

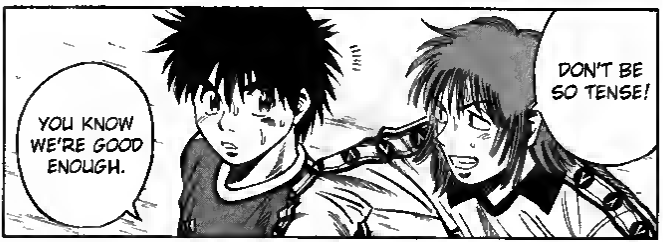
BABA ...!!
NICE PASS!
18
NICE SHOT, BABA ...!!
NICE ASSIST, TEPPEI!
NICE ONE!
BABA...

IT SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SCM AHEAD OR FASTER?

IS THAT TRUE?
What do you mean?

...


NAH... I THINK IT WAS A PERFECTLY GOOD PASS...


DON'T BE SO TENSE!
YOU KNOW WE'RE GOOD ENOUGH.

I... WONDER IF I'M IMPROVING.

HM?
YUTA

AREN'T YOU?

IF WE BEAT JOUNAN, THAT CAN BE YOUR PROOF OF IT.

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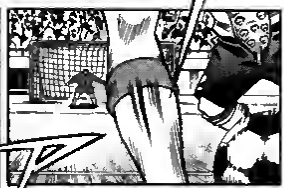
Chapter:
126

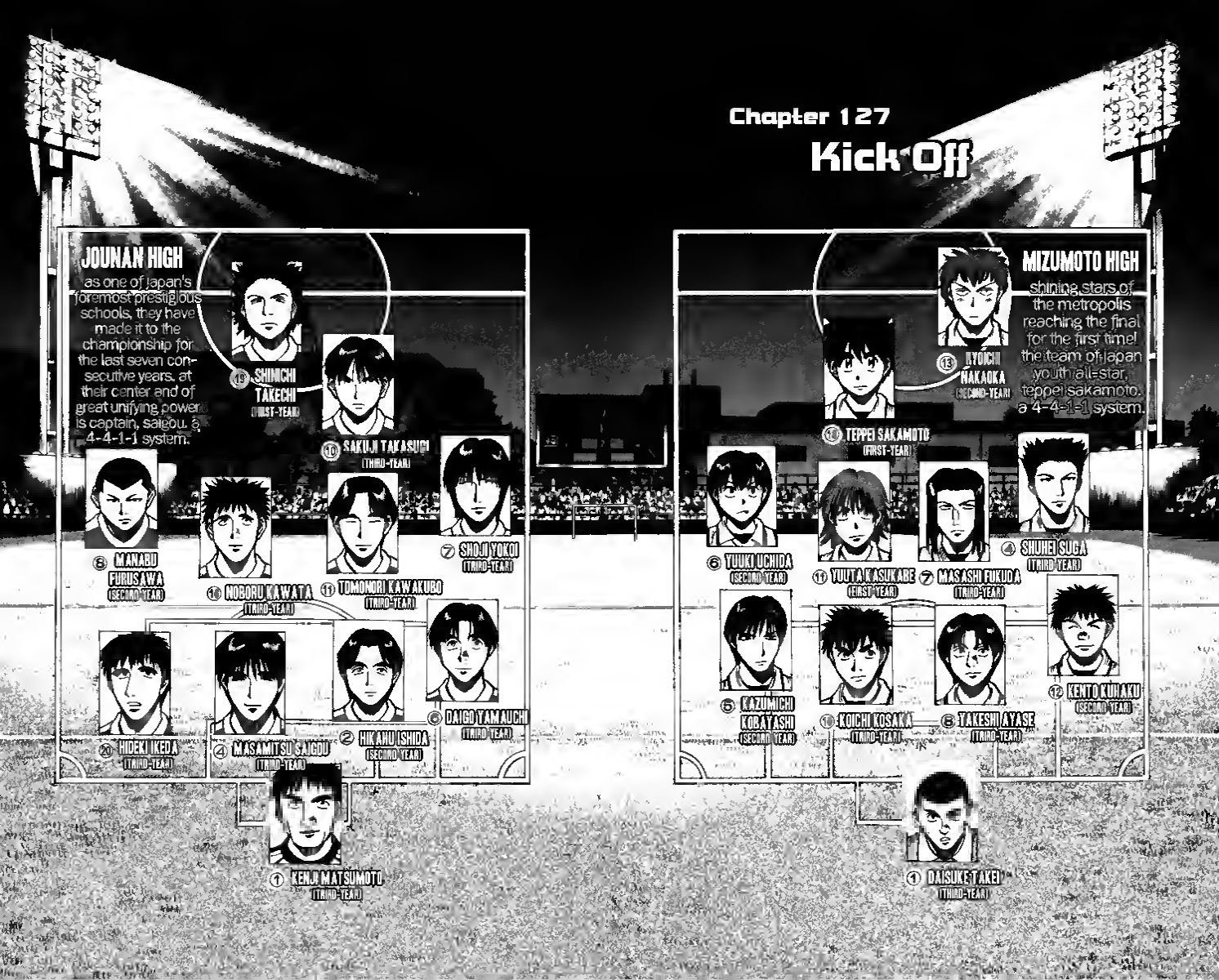
SFX: YAAAAY
AND, THE TIME REMAINING IS ALMOST UP!
THE BALL GOES TO THE CAPTAIN, MORIKAWA!

IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR THE FIRST GAME TO BE OVER...
Chapter 127
Kick Off



MIZUMOTO

Chapter 127
Kick Off


JOUNAN HIGH
as one of japan's foremost prestigious schools, they have made it to the championship for the last seven consecutive years. at their center and of great unifying power is captain, saigou. a 4-4-1-1 system.
⑲ SHIMICHI TAKECHI (FIRST-YEAR)
⑩ SAKUJI TAKASUGI (THIRD-YEAR)
⑧ MANABU FURUSAWA (SECOND-YEAR)
⑦ SHOJI YOKOI (THIRD-YEAR)
⑭ NOBORU KAWATA (THIRD-YEAR)
⑪ TOMOMORI KAWAKUBO (THIRD-YEAR)
⑳ HIDEKI IKEDA (THIRD-YEAR)
④ MASAMITSU SAIGOU (THIRD-YEAR)
② HIKARU ISHIDA (SECOND-YEAR)
⑥ DAIGO YAMAUCHI (THIRD-YEAR)
① KENJI MATSUMOTO (THIRD-YEAR)
MIZUMOTO HIGH
shining stars of the metropolis reaching the final for the first time! the team of japan youth all-star, teppei sakamoto. a 4-4-1-1 system.
⑬ RYOICHI NAKAOKA (SECOND-YEAR)
⑰ TEPPEI SAKAMOTO (FIRST-YEAR)
⑥ YUUKI UCHIDA (SECOND-YEAR)
⑪ YUUTA KASUKABE (FIRST-YEAR)
⑦ MASASHI FUKUDA (THIRD-YEAR)
④ SHUHEI SUGA (THIRD-YEAR)
⑤ KAZUMICHI KOBAYASHI (SECOND-YEAR)
⑪ KOICHI KOSAKA (THIRD-YEAR)
⑧ TAKESHI AYASE (THIRD-YEAR)
⑫ KENTO KURAKU (SECOND-YEAR)
① DAISUKE TAKEI (THIRD-YEAR)

AND THE WHISTLE FOR THE END OF THE MATCH!
GOT IT!!
PIH PIH PIIIH
PUTTING ANOTHER NAIL IN THE COFFIN, A SOLO SHOT BY THE CAPTAIN!! 3 - 0!!!
THIS YEAR AGAIN, THE PRESTIGIOUS TEITOU WILL REPRESENT TOKYO AS THE A TEAM!!
帝東
10
9
12

SFX: YAAAAAY

DI-
REC-
TOR
....
IF WE WIN TODAY, WE GO TO NA-TIONALS, DON'T WE..?
.....
THAT'S RIGHT.

I'M... GOING TO GET US MOVING!!
.....
?

AND, THE MATCH TO DECIDE THE TOKYO B TEAM!!
BOTH TEAMS' ELEVEN PLAY-ERS HAVE APPEARED ON THE PITCH!!
SFX: WOOOOOOOOOOOOH

SAI GOU ...!

15 YEARS AGO...THAT JERSEY WON NATIONALS.

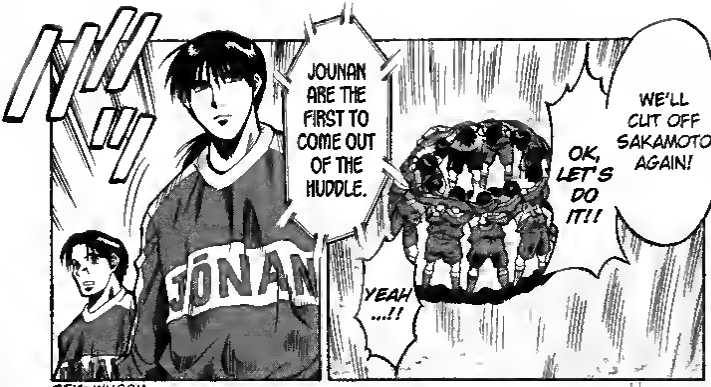
THEY ARE SOLID RED.
HUH? JOLNAN'S UNIFORMS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE LAST GAME.

THAT'S THEIR FIRST JERSEY.

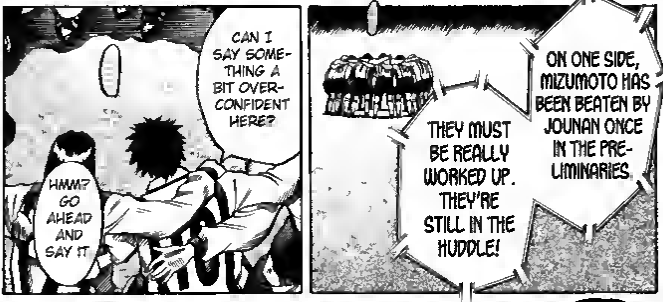
THEY THINK WE'RE LOSING ...?
FLAUNTING THAT IN THIS FINAL IS MEANT TO INTIMIDATE US...

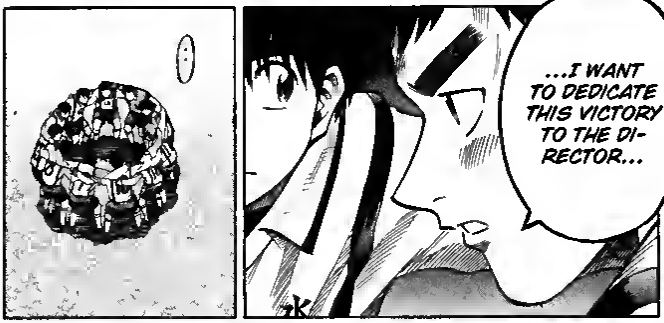
IF WE DEVOTE THE SAME NUMBER OF PLAYERS TO MIDFIELD, WE CAN'T LOSE.
WITH THE SAME 4-4-1-1 SYSTEM,

OUR STRATEGY IS THE SAME AS OUR LAST FACE-OFF.


JOUNAN ARE THE FIRST TO COME OUT OF THE HUDDLE.
WE'LL CUT OFF SAKAMOTO AGAIN!
OK, LET'S DO IT!!
YEAH ...!!
JŌNAN

SFX: WHOOM


CAN I SAY SOMETHING A BIT OVER-CONFIDENT HERE?
HMM? GO AHEAD AND SAY IT
ON ONE SIDE, MIZUMOTO HAS BEEN BEATEN BY JOUNAN ONCE IN THE PRELIMINARIES.
THEY MUST BE REALLY WORKED UP. THEY'RE STILL IN THE HUDDLE!


...I WANT TO DEDICATE THIS VICTORY TO THE DIRECTOR...

SFX: STEP STEP
すたすた
HEY, WAIT! WHAT THE —!?
?
MIZUMOTO HAVE JUST BROKEN THEIR HUDDLE!
THE HELL, YOU'RE S'POSED TO SAY THAT ONCE WE'VE WON

LET'S DO THIS!!
EVERYONE IS FEELING THE SAME...
BUT, HEY...
水本
18

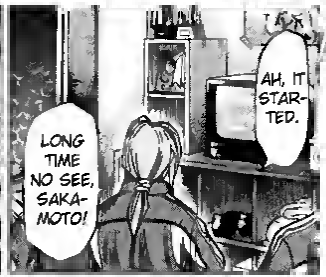
SFX: YAAA-A-AY

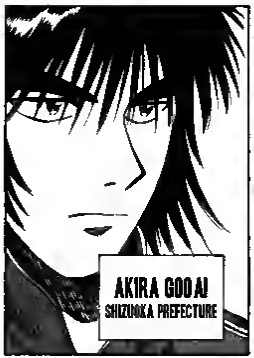
11

SFX: W-A-A-A-AAAH

They changed clothes

10





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74

QUICK PASSES AND AN ABUNDANCE OF MOMENTUM—!!
AS WE THOUGHT, JOUNAN IS THE TEAM STORMING THE MIDFIELD!!

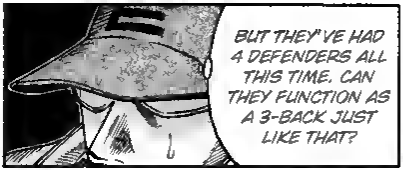
SFX: WHOOSH
SHOULD YOU BE PUTTING THREE GUYS ON ME?!
SFX: BOONF
SFX: WOOOOOOOH
YEAH, WE'LL RISE UP AND GRAB THE FIRST GOAL!
THIS IS IT ...!!

SFX: SOONF SWOOF
WHA ....?
SFX: WOOOOOOOH
13
WE'RE BEING DOMINA-TED BY THEIR NUMBERS ...!?
NO, MIZUMOTO IS ALSO PUTTING UP A FIGHT!
WITH THIS 4-4-1-1 FORMATION, MIZUMOTO HAS 4 PLAYERS ON MIDFIELD, BUT...
THEY ARE NOT LETTING THEM HAVE THEIR WAY WITH THE MIDFIELD!!
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE TAKING OVER...

THEY HAVE A 6-MAN MIDFIELD!!
KU-RA-KU!!
OK!

THE RIGHT FULLBACK, KURAKU, MOVES UP.. NAKAOKA AT THE TOP STAYS AND SAKAMOTO DROPS BACK, HUH

KIIII


BUT THEY'VE HAD 4 DEFENDERS ALL THIS TIME. CAN THEY FUNCTION AS A 3-BACK JUST LIKE THAT?

KA SU-KABE, FOL-LOW UP!
10

AND WITH NOTHING BUT A WEEK LEFT, A FORMATION CHANGE IS RECKLESS!!
A 3-BACK AGAINST JOUNAN ...?!!

ANYWAY, SHALL WE TRY IT FOR THE TIME BEING?
YOU CAN DO IT.
YOU THINK SO?
WELL, THINK ABOUT IT!
DON'T LET THE ROPE GO SLACK...!!
VISUALIZE EACH OTHER'S ANGLE AND DISTANCE AT ALL TIMES!!
That practice again?
A rope...
17
!
WHETHER IT'S A 3-BACK OR A 4-BACK, THIS STILL APPLIES.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS HAVING A SOLID GRASP ON EACH OTHER'S POSITIONAL RELATIONSHIP!
THE FORMATION DOES NOT MATTER...!!
MIZUHO

WE'VE BEEN PRACTICING TO CONFIRM EACH OTHER'S POSITIONS AND TO BRING TOGETHER OUR WILL THIS WHOLE TIME!!
EVERY-ONE'S POSITION, HUH...?

BREAK !!!!!
THEY'RE NOT GIVING UP THE MID-FIELD!!
SFX: POONF
OOPS...
MIZUMOTO INTERCEPTS ...!!
SFX: BOOM
YOU GOT THIS
BEYOND A SHA-DOW OF A DOUBT, WE WILL WIN FOR THE DIREC-TOR!!

A VOL-ANTE THIS FAR UP!?
SPRINTING FROM THE BACK-END, KASUKABE RUNS IN!!
That number 11 There was a change in him after that Ryoutou match, wasn't there ?
For sure

トン
KASUKABE, GOING FOR A TRAP—
NO, IT'S A PASS!?

IT'S SAKA-MOTO ...!!
MIZUMOTO GETS A CHANCE TO OPEN THE SCORING!!
SAIGOU!!

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Chapter:
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Chapter 128
Teppei Boxed

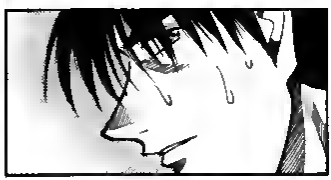
MIZUMOTO GET A CHANCE TO SCORE THE FIRST GOAL!!
SAKAMOTO EMERGES IN FRONT OF JOUNAN'S GOAL!!

2

I'VE GOT IT!
THE GOAL'S LOWER-LEFT CONER!

WHAT!?

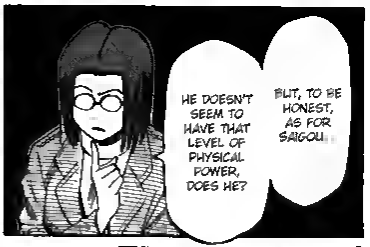
4



JOUNAN CAPTAIN, SAIGOU, MAKING IT HARD TO BELIEVE HE JUST RECOVERED FROM AN INJURY!!
HE REPULSED SAKAIMOTO'S CHARGE WITH A BRILLIANT TACKLE!!
I'M OPEN, SAIGOU!!
TAKABUH!
JON
水本
3

ZP
ZP
ZP
ONCE AGAIN, A HEATED CONTEST IN MIDFIELD!!
NAKAOKA PRESSES HIM!!
I SEE.. EVEN THE FORWARDS ARE MAKING SURE TO STAY CONSCIOUS OF DEFENSE
THIS IS ONLY THE SECOND DEFENDER WHO'S BEEN ABLE TO CONTAIN SAKAMOTO
THEY'RE COMING, FURUSAWA! EYES OPEN!!
JŌNAN
THE OTHER WAS...
WILL THIS BE A ONE-GOAL MATCH?

ITALIAN YOUTH ALL-STAR FABIO CASTELLINI
WITH HIS EXTRAORDINARY PHYSIQUE,
HE POUNDED SAKAMOTO INTO SUBMISSION

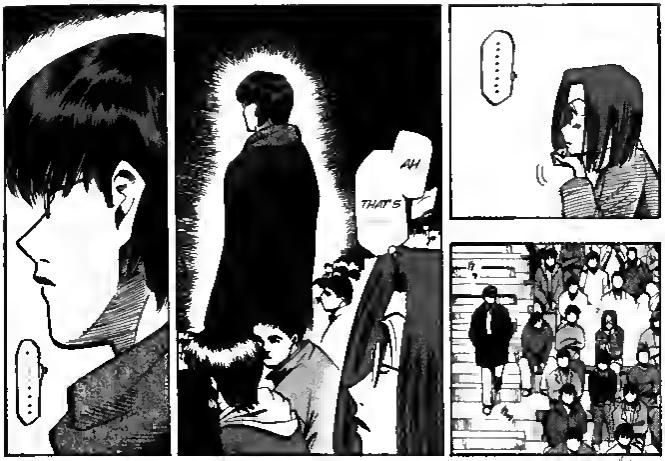

HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE THAT LEVEL OF PHYSICAL POWER, DOES HE?
BUT, TO BE HONEST, AS FOR SAIGOU...

7

YOU'D BETTER THINK ABOUT IT, TOO

THE MATCH HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.
I BET THEY'RE BOTH GOING OVER IN THEIR MINDS HOW TO TAKE EACH OTHER OUT.

...SINCE YOU'RE GOING TO WRITE AN ARTICLE ON SAKAMOTO


AH
THAT'S

BRING THE LINE FOR-WARD!
SEAMLESS LINE CON-TROL...
AND NOW IT'S MIZUMOTO'S ATTACK!!

HE'S COMPLETELY SUPPRESSING THE OPPONENT'S ATTACK.
MOVE UP!!
AND HE BREAKS THE LINES WITH PERFECT TIMING!

*One of Chiba Prefecture's J-League teams

HAHA, WELL THEY TOLD ME TO FOCUS ON MY COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS, Y'KNOW.
WHAT'S UP, IWASAKI? THEY WOULDN'T EVEN LET YOU ON THE BENCH AS A BACK-UP?

9

WHEN US THIRD-YEARS WERE TAKEN OFF AS REGULARS.
HE TOLD US, "LET'S FIGHT UNTIL THE END".
"TOGETHER...
LET'S STEP ON THE FIELD AT NATIONALS", HE SAID...

SINCE OUR LAST MATCH AGAINST THEM, THEY'VE IMPROVED BY MILES...
I SEE IT NOW!
THE BALL GOES TO SAKAMOTO!!
THEY'RE DYING TO WIN, TOO!!

I'M LEAVING IT UP TO YOU...
!!
WE COULDN'T MAKE IT TO THE NATIONAL TOP-4 AGAIN THIS YEAR...
asics

I CAN'T DO IT!!
THERE'S NO ONE ELSE
THE CAP-TAIN' ■ AND!?
I KNOW IT'S A LOT OF PRESSURE
EVER SINCE WE WON THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 15 YEARS AGO THEY'VE BEEN CALLING US A PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOL...
EVERY YEAR, THE SCHOOL AND THE CITY HAVE BIG EXPECTATIONS...
I'M GOING TO BE ABSENT...
FROM A LOT OF GAMES... AND PRAC-TICES...
BUT, ME AND MY ■ICK...
.....

SUGOU...
I DON'T KNOW IF EVERYONE WILL BE ABLE TO CARRY ME...
THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT I DECIDED ALONE...
THIS WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE JOUNAN FOOTBALL TEAM.
PLEASE.
ACCOMPLISH THE DREAM THAT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO REACH

SAKAMOTO IS HEADING FORWARD!
BRING IT!
SAKA-MOTO!
IN FRONT OF THE GOAL ONCE AGAIN! NAKAOKA IS RUNNING AHEAD!!

14

TWO DEFENDERS GO AT SAKA-MOTO!!
GHH
ISHIDA, YAMAUCHI, GET ON SAKA-MOTO!!
SAKA-MOTO!

BRILLIANT! SAKAMOTO PASSES TO KAKAOKA WITH HIS HEEL!
IT'S HIGH!?
WIDE OPEN!!
ON PUR-POSE?
IT WENT BEHIND HIM! KASUKABE HAD COME IN BEHIND THEM!!
!?

!!?
ooo
カ
16

EVEN THOUGH YOUR MARK WAS RYO ..
WHY..?
GEHH
17
ONCE AGAIN, SAKAMOTO'S OFFENSE HAS BEEN BESTED BY SAIGOU!
NICE ONE SAIGOU!!
WHY WERE YOU THERE!?

HE READ IT!?
18
I DON'T KNOW ANY DEFENDER WITH MORE POTENTIAL THAN SAIGOU!!
BASICALLY HE READS THE MATCH
HE READS THE MOVEMENTS OF THE OPPONENT'S FORWARDS
HE SEES THE OPEN SPACES
NO, EVEN IN THE J-LEAGUE
IN THIS GEN-ERA TION

YEAH... HE TOTALLY READ IT.
HE'S READING US!?
BUT, UM, HEY...
TEMPEL
MIZUMOTO, THROW IN!!
EVEN SO...
RYO AND I BOTH
UNDERSTOOD THE INTENT OF YOUR PASS!!

You listening?
WHAT'S THAT HAPPY LOOK FOR?!

THAT'S GOOD
STILL GOOD ENOUGH TO BEAT YOU
SAIGOU...
YOUR BACK IS IT STILL BAD?

BEATING YOU WHILE YOU'RE WOUNDED WOULD BE MEANINGLESS FOR US!

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Chapter 129
Not Yielding an Inch

THE PRELIMINARY FINAL TO DECIDE THE TOKYO B TEAM IN THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS!!
STILL AT NIL-NIL, WE'VE PASSED 20 MINUTES IN THE FIRST HALF...
AT THE MOMENT, MIZUMOTO HAS A SLIGHT ADVANTAGE!
THEIR BACK LINE WAS REDUCED TO THREE,
2
BUT THEIR MIDFIELD HAS GROWN TO SIX IN RETURN!
AND, AT THE FRONT WAGING A ONE-MAN BATTLE, NAGAOKA PUTS ON THE PRESS!!
ハァ
ハァ

ALL RIGHT
KOBAYASHI, WATCH YOUR SIDES! YOU'RE TOO FAR UP!!
DROP BACK A METER!
GOOD STUFF! IT'S GOING JUST RIGHT!
YES SIR!
3
HOWEVER, I CAN ALREADY SEE THAT THIS GUY IS GOING TO WEAR HIMSELF OUT.
SO, THAT'S IT. 6 ON THE MIDFIELD WIN
HIS PRESS HAS GOTTEN WEAKER.
THAT MEANS THIS IS THE TIME TO DO IT!!

HE SENDS A LONG BALL TO THE FRONT, BYPASSING THE MID-FIELD!!

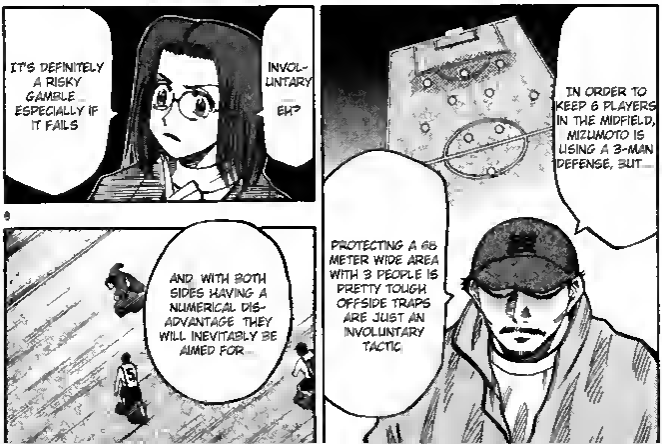
OFF-SIDE!!
WHAT!?
P/////////H!!
NICE DEFENSE!!
THANKS TEPPEI!!
KOBAKA!!

IT IS ALWAYS EASIER TO GET 3 PLAYERS IN SYNC FOR AN OFFSIDE TRAP.
BUT... THE TRUE TEST OF THIS DEFENSE WILL START WITH THE NEXT ATTACK..
THE 3-BACK IS WORKING!!
THEIR DEFENSE IS RUNNING WELL, TOO!!
WELL DONE, MIZUMOTO!!
オオオオ
6
MIZUMOTO'S CAPTAIN, KOSAKA, IS FIRMLY HOLDING TOGETHER THEIR DEFENSE!!
10
TAKA SUGI!!
I SEE...
JONAN

THEY'RE A HASTILY PUT-TOGETHER 3-BACK!!
SO YOU KNOW WHAT SPOT TO AIM FOR

THE BATTLE IN MIDFIELD STARTS AGAIN!!
JOUNAN'S MIDFIELDER, TAKASUGI, CUTS IN!!
カ
ン
JONAN
7

FROM THERE, HE AND YOKOI SHOOT UP THE RIGHT SIDE!!
7
JUNIN
THEY'RE COMING!
18
WE'VE GOT THIS!


IT'S DEFINITELY A RISKY GAMBLE ESPECIALLY IF IT FAILS
INVOL-UNTARY
EH?
IN ORDER TO KEEP 6 PLAYERS IN THE MIDFIELD, MIZUMOTO IS USING A 3-MAN DEFENSE, BUT...
PROTECTING A 68 METER WIDE AREA WITH 3 PEOPLE IS PRETTY TOUGH. OFFSIDE TRAPS ARE JUST AN INVOLUNTARY TACTIC
AND WITH BOTH SIDES HAVING A NUMERICAL DIS-ADVANTAGE THEY WILL INEVITABLY BE AIMED FOR...

5
USING SHORT PASSES, THEY'VE BROKEN THROUGH, STARTING WITH YOKOI.
WILL THEY BE ABLE TO LOCK DOWN AN AREA WHERE THEY'VE ALWAYS HAD A 4-MAN DEFENSE...
WITH ONLY THREE?
IT'S NOT OFFSIDE!
!?

KOSAKA AND KOBAYASHI HAVE COME ALL THE WAY TO THE TOUCH LINES!?
YOKOI, OVER HERE!
!?
UCHIDA IS ALSO PRESSING IN FROM BEHIND!
THE OTHER SIDE SHOULD BE WIDE OPEN...

MIDFIELDER, KURAKU, RETURNS TO THE DEFENSE!
KURAKU!
A 4-MAN DEFENCE?
MIZUMOTO'S SYSTEM GOES FROM 3-6-1 TO 4-5-1!
OUR ROPE-SPACING!
CONFIRM EACH OTHERS' POSITIONS!!

YOU CAN MAKE A 5-MAN DEFENSE
THEORETICALLY, BY JUST HAVING BOTH WING-BACKS DROP BACK...
YESSS!
BUT, BY DOING THAT, YOUR MIDFIELD THINS OUT AND YOU INVITE MORE ATTACKS
SAIGOU HAS TO BE AIMING FOR JUST THAT...

12

SINCE A 4-MAN DEFENSE CAN CHANGE TO A 3-MAN DEFENSE
FROM THE START MIZUMOTO'S PRIMARY DEFENSE SYSTEM HAS BEEN A 4-BACK
THEN THE REVERSE MUST ALSO BE POSSIBLE, HUH...
ON TOP OF THAT, THAT NUMBER 10...

IF HE WERE TO MAKE JUST ONE MISJUDGMENT, IT WOULD BE TRAGIC FOR THEM

ON DEFENSE AND OFFENSE, PHASE BY PHASE, HE IS HANDLING THE CHANGE OF
SYSTEMS WITH EXACT PRECISION.

THIS GUY HAS SOME GUTS.

I REMEMBER HAVING A MATCH WITH HIM BEFORE.
HE'S GOTTA BE 'KOSAKA', RIGHT..?

WHA—?
WITH NEITHER TEAM ABLE TO FIND THE OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE,
THE STALEMATE IN MIDFIELD CONTINUES!
14
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
AND THAT'S THE WHISTLE FOR THE END OF THE FIRST HALF!!
PI
P
NEITHER SIDE BUDGING AN INCH, WE WILL HEAD TO THE SECOND HALF AT NIL-NIL!

YESS!
WE'RE GETTING STRONGER! DEFINITELY!!
MIZUMOTO
YEAH.
RIGHT, TEPPEI?
15
あ
OWW!
BEATING YOU WHILE YOU'RE WOUNDED WOULD BE MEANING-LESS FOR US!
THIS GUY HERE WAS TRASH-TALKING TO SAIGOU, TOO.

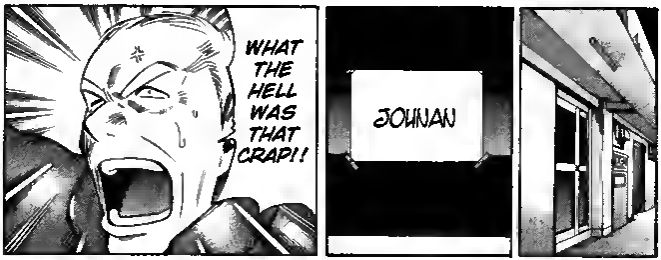
SEIRYU'S BACK ISN'T AT FULL-STRENGTH NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
...IS WHAT HE SAID BEFORE, THOUGH...
SERIOUSLY... THIS KID REALLY HATES LOSING...
YOU WERE ALL GREAT IN THE FIRST HALF.
KOSAKA.
KEEP LEADING THE TEAM JUST AS YOU ARE NOW.
IT WAS VERY EASY TO SEE THAT YOU WERE ALL MOVING TOGETHER AS ONE OUT THERE
AND SURPASS YOUR OLD IDOL, SAIGOU!

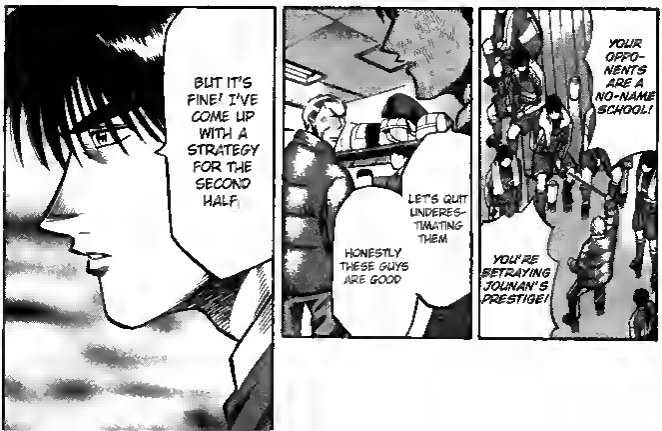
ALL HE HAS WANTED TO DO IS BEAT SAIGOU!
SINCE LOSING TO JOUNAN IN THE SECOND ROUND
GOT IT!
18

I CAN SAY THAT I HAVE GOTTEN BETTER!!
IF I CAN JUST BEAT SAIGOU, I...

NOT EVEN A CONSIDERATION!
AND, EXTRA TIME?
SO, JUST 40 MINUTES LEFT!! KEEP YOUR CONCENTRATION AT THE SAME HEIGHT!!
MIZUNO
PUT EVERYTHING INTO THOSE 40 MINUTES!
18
AND, OFFENSE!
THIS WILL MOST LIKELY END UP AS A ONE-GOAL GAME.
I'M NOT GOING TO SAY 2 GOALS OR 3 GOALS...
Keep it up!
DEFENDERS YOU'VE SHOWN THAT YOU CAN FIRMLY STAVE OFF JOUNAN'S ATTACKS!

ALL WE WANT IS JUST ONE GOAL!
FIND THE GUTS TO DO IT AND GET IT DONE!
Y...
YEAH!!
guts???


WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT CRAP!!
JOUNAN


BUT IT'S FINE! I'VE COME UP WITH A STRATEGY FOR THE SECOND HALF.
HONESTLY THESE GUYS ARE GOOD
LET'S QUIT UNDERESTIMATING THEM
YOUR OPPONENT'S ARE A NO-NAME SCHOOL!
YOU'RE BETRAYING JOUNAN'S PRESTIGE!

COME FORWARD. I'LL EXPLAIN.
THANK GOD...
HMPF. I'LL LEAVE IT TO THE REAL COACH, THEN!
YOU EXPECT US TO DO SOMETHING THAT LOOKS THAT WEAK!?
WAITA MINIT!!
HUH!!?

LEAVE YOUR BIG-NAME SCHOOL PRIDE BEHIND!
WINNING THIS GAME IS AN ABSOLUTE MUST FOR US!

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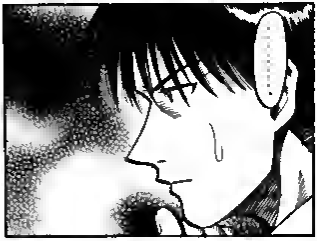
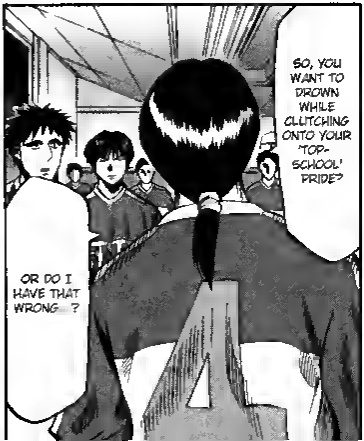
Chapter:
129

Chapter 130
The Pride of Prestige

WHAT!?
SERI-OUSLY, SAIGOU?!
YOU EXPECT US TO DO SOMETHING THAT LOOKS THAT WEAK?!



IT'S FOR THE WIN
HE'S RIGHT

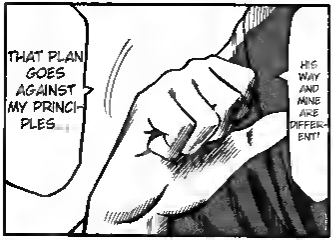

SO, YOU WANT TO DROWN WHILE CLUTCHING ONTO YOUR 'TOP-SCHOOL' PRIDE?
OR DO I HAVE THAT WRONG...?

A TOP SCHOOL... IS ONLY A TOP SCHOOL BECAUSE IT WINS!!
IT'S FOR THE WIN.

AT LEAST NOT TO ME...
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.
HUH? WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?

AAAGAAAAAIN FROMMMMM YOOOOOOOL!??
TAKE CHI...
YOU GONNA BENCH ME AGAIN?
WHAT, YOU GONNA BENCH ME?
WE WON'T TAKE THAT FROM A FIRST-YEAR!
THAT'S ENOUGH, TAKECHI.
FINE, BENCH ME...
AND WE WON'T WIN.
I'M JUST GONNA SAY IT...

EVERYONE ELSE IS AVERAGE.
YOU SHUT YOUR MOUTH!
THE PEOPLE I ACKNOWLEDGE HERE ARE SAIGOU AND TAKASUGI ONLY.
JONAN
JONAN


THAT PLAN GOES AGAINST MY PRINCIPLES.
HIS WAY AND MINE ARE DIFFERENT!

THEN, YOU CAN LISTEN TO WHAT SAIGOU HAS TO SAY!

5

ALL I NEED...
IS TO SCORE A BUNCH OF GOALS AND I'LL BE SATISFIED.
.....
JONAN

GET ME...
TO NATIONALS!!
OKAY!
OK, IT'S ALMOST TIME
JUST 40 MINUTES
HMM. SO
6
OF COURSE!!

HEY... YUTA...
I WONDER IF I'M IMPROVING, TOO...
I WONDER IF THE YOUTH ALL-STAR'S DIRECTOR IS HERE
I WISH HE COULD SEE MY MOVES TODAY
HEH HEH... DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE I'M GETTING WAY BETTER?
Like I could get on the Japan Youth or something
水本
水本
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SAY THAT YOU'VE GOTTEN BETTER, RIGHT?!
AT LEAST... IF WE CAN BEAT JOUNAN AGAINST WHOM WE LOST LAST TIME
カタ
カタ
COME ON AGAIN WITH THIS CONVER-SATION?
7
YEAH.
EXACTLY.
...
ウッキー
IN THEORY AND ALL

ONLY JUST NOW!?
NAH, JUST MORE THAN BEFORE!
OK! I'M FIRED UP NOW!
BUT, AN ENCOURAGING ONE
JEEZ, HE'S SUCH A CAREFREE GUY
11
18
10

ALL RIGHT LET'S SHUT THEM DOWN AND GET THAT GOAL!
YE[illegible]!!
10

THE FIRST HALF ENDED NIL-NIL, WITH BOTH SIDES FENDING OFF THE OTHERS' ATTACKS, AND A PREDOMINANT STALEMATE IN MIDFIELD!
BOTH TEAMS' ELEVEN PLAYERS HAVE EMERGED!!
WILL EACH THE TITLE OF TOKYO B TEAM!!
40 MINUTES IN THIS SECOND HALF... THE ONES TO FIGHT AND REMAIN STANDING VICTORIOUS...
AND WILL HAVE THE KEY TO NATIONALS WITHIN THEIR GRASP!!
PIIIII

WELL, WILL THIS BECOME A MIDFIELD SCRAMBLE TO STEAL THE BALL JUST AS IT WAS IN THE FIRST HALF!?
MIZUMOTO'S VOLANTE, FUKUDA, INTERCEPTS THE BALL!
MIZUMOTO IS BRINGING AN OFFENSIVE TO THE ENEMY LINE!

GET ON 'EM, YOKO!!
JOUNAN IS FALLING BACK!!
UCHIDA TAKES OVER!
THE SCRAMBLE FOR THE BALL CONTINUES INTENSELY!!

12

LITTLE BY LITTLE JOUNAN'S SCRIMMAGE LINE IN THE MIDFIELD IS RETREATING FURTHER AND FURTHER
INTO THEIR OWN TERRITORY!?
CUTTING THROUGH AND OPENING IS SAKAMOTO!!
WHAT'S THIS!?
HAS THEIR PRESSURE GOTTEN WEAKER!?
OUR CHANCE! DO IT IN ONE GO!!

GO, TEPPEI!!
IF THEY GIVE HIM AN OPENING
THEY'RE SCREWED!
GEHH...
TWO OF JOUNAN'S PLAYERS TAKE HIM!!
キュッ
キュッ

SHOT DOWN THE CENTER!!
NNR RRGH
15
ガッ
YEAH
TOR

HUFF!
HUFF!
CLEAR IT!!
KEEPER MAKES A FINE SAVE!
16
SAKAMOTO...
JOUNAN IS PLAYING A DEFENSE-ONLY STRATEGY, COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM ANYTHING WE'VE PREVIOUSLY SEEN FROM THE TEAM!!
PULL BACK! PULL BACK FARTHER!!

ONLY ONE PLAYER, TAKECHI, IS LEFT UPFIELD!

HE'S GONE AS FAR AS TAKING IWASAKI OUT FOR YOU...
HE'S PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR YOU WITH THE DIRECTOR, TOO.

TAKE-CHI...

YOU'VE GOTTA UNDERSTAND WHERE SAIGOU IS COMING FROM...

THIS IS IT, THEN...
AND LET YOU GRAB THOSE GOALS!!

SO, SAIGOU AND I ARE GOING TO SEND PASSES AT YOU.

IS THIS THE FOOTBALL OF CHAMPIONS!?
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?
A COUNTER ATTACK, HUH?
LAME. THIS IS A STRATEGY FOR WEAK TEAMS! WAITING FOR A COUNTER-ATTACK!!?
DON'T MIND IT!
THIS IS GET TING TO ME...
THAT'S NOT WHAT TOP SCHOOLS DO!! ATTACK THE GOAL!!

TEPPEI!
THE COUNTER-ATTACK IS PRECISELY WHAT WILL TAKE THEM DOWN!
THIS IS THE OPTIMAL STRAT-EGY!!

FOR A DEFENDER, ALLOWING RUNS INTO THE SPACE BEHIND YOU IS THE SCARIEST THING
AND ESPECIALLY IF A TEPPEI-LIKE, SPEEDY FORWARD GETS PAST YOU, IT INVITES THE WORST OF CONSE-QUENCES

19

CONSIDERING HIS HEIGHT, A HIGH PASS WON'T COME FOR SAKAMOTO
IT'LL DEFINITELY COME IN FRONT OF HIM!!
SO, WE PULL BACK AND DEFEND, AND THERE IS NO SPACE FOR THEM TO CUT IN BEHIND US!!

HE READ IT!?
I'VE GOTTA GUARD HIM LOOSELY AND AIM FOR THAT MOMENT!!
TAKA SUGI!
AGAIN...

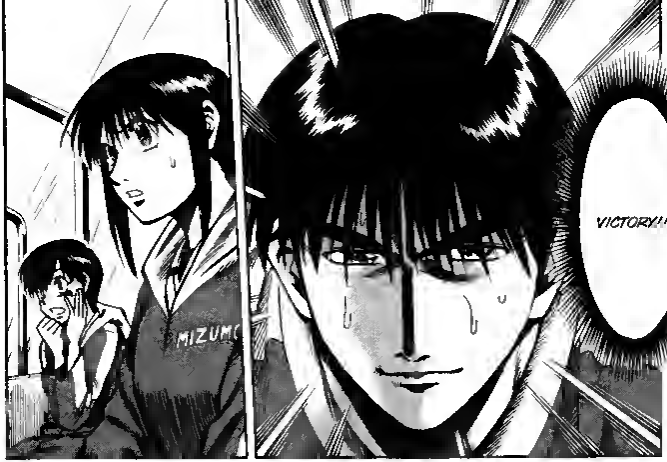
A SHARP AND DIRECT BALL TO TAKASUGI!!!
TAKASUGI LIGHTLY DEFLECTS IT WITH ONE TOUCH!

IT'S FINALLY TIME...

22

GRUH
IN TWO TOUCHES, IT REACHES TAKECHI UPFIELD!!
ALL RIGHT!!

!!!
WHAT?!
ALL I NEED IS TO SCORE A BUNCH OF GOALS AND I'LL BE SATISFIED HUH?
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG THERE...
WE ARE BOTH AIMING FOR THE SAME THING...
23
FROM SUCH A BIG FRAME, SUCH UNBELIEVABLY NIMBLE HANDLING!!
HE GETS THROUGH AND IS FREE!


VICTORY!!

HE'S GOTTEN PAST MIZUMOTO'S LAST LINE OF DEFENSE!!

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Chapter: 130

Chapter 131

Bite the Bullet

HE'S GOTTEN PAST MIZUMOTO'S LAST LINE OF DEFENSE!!
SFX: WAAAAAAAAAAAAH
JOUNAN, WITH A CHANCE AT THEIR FINGERTIPS!!
!?

!?
HE WAS STOPPED!!
KOSAKA WASN'T PASSED! HE STOPPED HIM JUST IN TIME!
GUTTT TTTTSSSSSS!!

This Number 10 is good
JOU-NAN'S COUN-TER WAS A DUD!!!
NICE ONE, KOSA-KA!!
KEEP IT GOOO-ING!!
水本
YEAH ...
KOSAKA IS GREAT.. HE'S IM-PROVED A LOT!
4
YOUR BROTH-ER...
BUT, WELL . KOSAKA COULDN'T HAVE STOPPED HIM ALONE JUST NOW...
HN?

BY BUYING US JUST A FEW EXTRA SECONDS...
KOSAKA MADE NUMBER 19 UNABLE TO PLAY HIS POSITION WITH ABSOLUTE FREEDOM
THE TIMES WHEN PASSES CAME TO NUMBER 10, TAKASUGI, HE STAYED RIGHT ON TOP OF HIM, AND THEN...
WOW WW...
THEN MY BROTHER IS... IMPROVING TOO.
.....
5
SFX: WAAAAAAAH

SFX: SLAM
TEP-PEI ...!!
YEAH ...!!
FUKUDA'S PASS IS TO SAKAMOTO! HOWEVER, SAIGOU IS FORCING HIM WIDE TO THE SIDELINES!
FU-KU-DA...
6

HE CAN MOVE BETTER AND STEAL THE BALL BETTER THEN ANYONE...
RUNNING IN IS SUGA!!!
SAKAMOTO IS AMAZING! HE PASSED IT BEHIND WITH HIS HEEL!
HE IMME-DIATELY CUTS THROUGH THE MIDDLE!

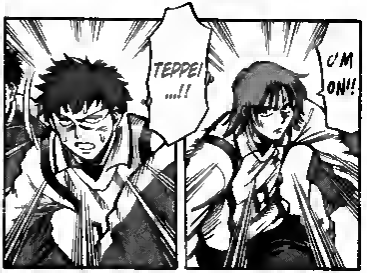
!!
!!
GHH...
WHAT? WHY ARE THERE SO MANY DEFENDERS?!
SFX: WHOOSH
BRING IT BACK, SUGA ...!!
...
...
BY MAKING THIS KIND OF JAM,
THEY AREN'T ALLOWING MIZUMOTO TO PERFORM THEIR USUAL PASSWORK.
FROM AN OVERHEAD VIEW, IT'S EASY TO SEE IT.

SOMEHOW, I FEEL LIKE THEY ARE GETTING PULLED INTO SAIGOU-KUN'S TRAP AGAIN

THE ENTRANCE TO JOUNAN'S GOAL IS LOCKED SHUT!
FLAWLESS DEFENSE! WHAT WILL THEIR ANGLE BE ...!?

IN FRONT OF THE GOAL, KASUKABE AND NAKAOKA RUN IN!!
SAKAMOTO LOBS OVER A HIGH KICK..!!

!!
DAMMIT! WE NEED TO GET AN ATTACK IN!


TEPPEI ...!!
U'M ON!!

YUTA! RYO!!

HERE IT IS! COUNTER-ATTACK!!
GET BACK!!
GRR
SFX: BOOM

NICE, FUKU-DAI

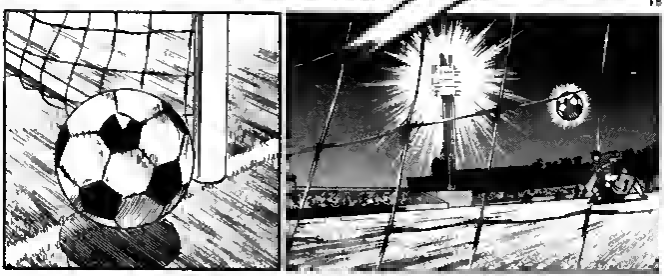
I GUESS THIS COULD BE CALLED A COUNTER-ATTACK...

IF YOU HAD GIVEN ME A BETTER PASS!!

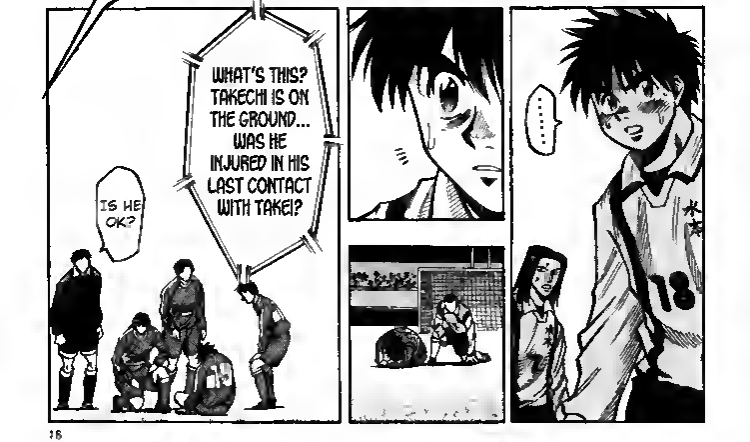
SFX: WHOOSH

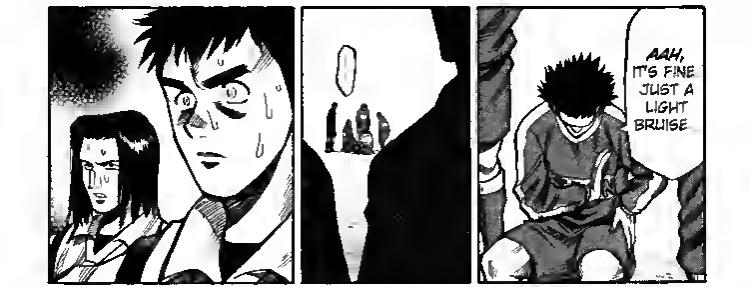
14
SFX: DASH
IT LOOKS LIKE TAKECHI HAS A CHANCE IF HE HEADS IT!
THE KEEPER, TAKEI, COMES OUT!
Rrrrr aaaaa aaaaah!!!
BIG TROUBLE FOR MIZUMOTO! THERE IS NO ONE BUT THE KEEPER THERE TO BLOCK THE GOAL!
HE'S FREE NOW!

SFX: SLAM



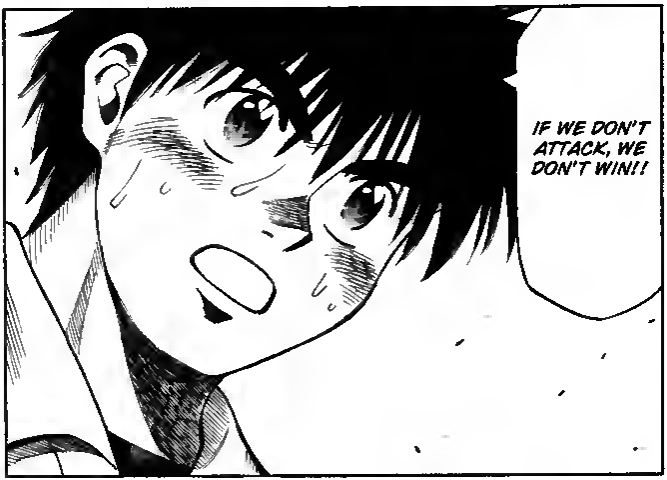
SFX: AAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHH





OUR DEFENSE NEEDS TO STAY BACK AND DEFEND PROPERLY!
EVERYONE IS MOVING FORWARD JUST A LITTLE TOO MUCH!
THAT COUNTERATTACK WAS DEFINITELY DANGEROUS!
BECAUSE THAT CLOSE CALL COULD HAVE DEFINITELY BEEN PREVENTED...
SERIOUSLY.. IT'S LIKE MY LIFE FLASHED BEFORE MY EYES.
17
YEAH, I GUESS WE SHOULD PULL BACK..
AND THEY'RE NOT EVEN PRESSING US ..
THAT'S IT SO, SINCE THEIR DEFENSE ISN'T FIGHTING BACK, OUR FRONT AND BACK ARE GETTING STRETCHED, AND THE MIDFIELD IS THINNED OUT, HUH AND, WAS THIS SAIGOU'S AIM?
...
水本

BUT...

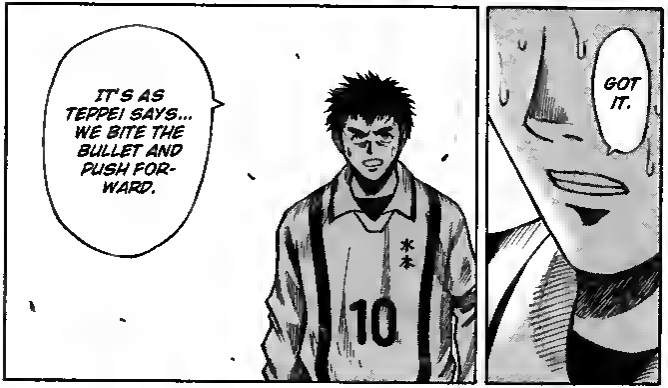

IF WE DON'T ATTACK, WE DON'T WIN!!

18

A... ONE-GOAL MATCH! ...HUH?

SO THAT MEANS WE CAN LEAVE NUMBER 19 FREE?
Come on!
IF THEY SCORE THAT GOAL, EV-ERYTHING WILL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING !!
水本

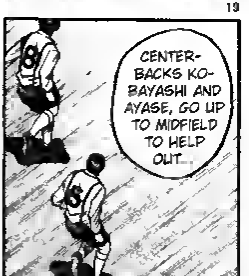
IF I DON'T GET THIS GOAL, WHO DO YOU THINK WILL?
CAN YOU PLAY, TAKECHI ..?
OF COURSE..


IT'S AS TEPPEI SAYS... WE BITE THE BULLET AND PUSH FORWARD.
GOT IT.

I'LL STOP TAKECHI ON MY OWN, WITHOUT FAIL...!!
SFX: YAAAAAAAAY

HUH ...?

19


CENTER-BACKS KOBAYASHI AND AYASE, GO UP TO MIDFIELD TO HELP OUT...

SFX: WAAAAAAAAAAAH
SURPASS THE FOOTBALL TAUGHT BY THE DIRECTOR...
!
CONNECT EVERYONE THROUGH THE BALL...

THAT'S OUR FOOTBALL!!

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Chapter:
131

Chapter 132

We're Going There!!

THEY'RE REALLY GOING FOR IT, HUH.
YEAH
AT THE GOAL, JOUNAN'S RIGIDLY CLOSED UP BREAKWATER...
IS BEING CLOSED IN ON BY THE TSUNAMI THAT IS MIZUMOTO!!

NIL-NIL DEADLOCK
BUT, THE ONES DRIVING FORWARD ARE MIZUMOTO
YET THEY STILL HAVEN'T MANAGED TO BORE EVEN A SINGLE HOLE INTO THIS DEFENSE!!
PAST 20 MINUTES IN THE 2ND HALF
HUFF
HUFF

LONG TIME NO SEE, MORIKAWA
VA...
SIT DOWN!
I CAN'T SEE!!
DIREC-TOR VAN GALEN!!
and Frank!!
BUT, THE ROADS WERE JAMMED ON THE WAY HERE
THE DIRECTOR SAID HE WANTED TO SEE IT
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
3
NUMBER 11, SUGA, FOR
MIZUMOTO WILL HAVE A PLAYER SUBSTITU-TION HERE.
OF COURSE HE'S HERE FOR TEPPEI I BET...

HUFF
HUFF

NUMBER 9, BABA!
水本
9

HAHN
HUFF

THEY'VE GOTTA HURRY UP AND SCORE ONE, WHILE THE OTHER SIDE IS PLAYING WEAKLY!!
THEY'LL BE GOING EVEN HARDER !!
YESSS, THEY PUT IN THEIR TALL FORWARD!!
水本

4

THAT'S— WHAT THE DIRECTOR WAS SAYING BEFORE

!
THE FANG DON'T GET IT... NIZUMOTO IS STRUG-GLING
IT'S JUST A SLOW SUFFOCA-TION

SFX: ZOOOON

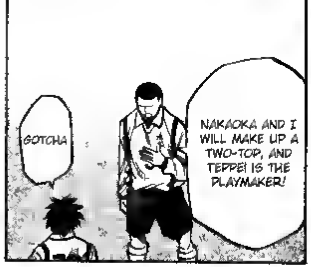
LIKE NORMAL... THE FULLBACKS ARE IN THE HOT SEAT; THEIR NERVES WEARING DOWN FROM THE FEAR OF ALLOWING A GOAL...
I FEEL A MUCH HEAVIER BURDEN THAN IN THE SECOND ROUND LEAGUE...

5

SFX: THUD

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR!!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

WE'RE GOING THERE!!
TO NATIONALS !!!


GOTCHA
NAKAOKA AND I WILL MAKE UP A TWO-TOP, AND TEPPEI IS THE PLAYMAKER!

YEAH!!
12
10

BABA!!

THAT GOAL IS AS GOOD AS OURS!
SFX: CHEERS

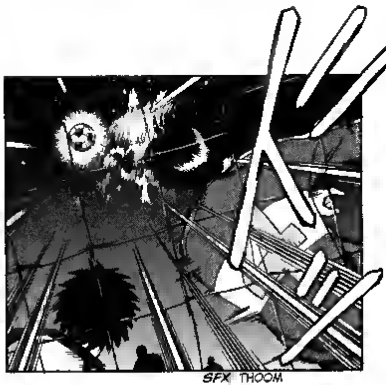
IT'S ALL SAIGOU'S PLAN!!
THEIR CURRENT SITUATION

THEY KNOW KOTONE, TOO!
THEY KNOW MIZUMOTO'S GUYS!!

SAIGOU'S JUST WAITING FOR THEM TO WEAR THEMSELVES OUT!!
TONAN
THE BALL HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED TO SAKAMOTO RIGHT ALONG THE LEFT SIDELINE!!
OK!
TEPPEI!!
18

HE'S MAKING USE OF WHAT HE LEARNED AT THE ALL-STAR CAMP!
EVEN IF THEIR DEFENSE IS TIGHT —
WHEN I RIDE THE LINE, THE OPPONENT'S PRESSURE HALVES!!
STRIDING WITH THE BALL, SAKAMOTO IS GOING FOR THE WIN!!
SFX WOOMP
HUFF
HUFF
HIS WILD DRIBBLING IS MATCHING HIS SPEED!!
IS HE REALLY GOING FOR IT JUST LIKE THAT!?
HE'S THROWN OFF A JOUNAN DEFENDER!!
坂本
78

BABA, UP HIGH!!
IT'S ALMOST OUR TIME TO WIN!!
SFX: THWACK
HE'S GONE OPPOSITE OF THE GOALIE!!
SHOOT!

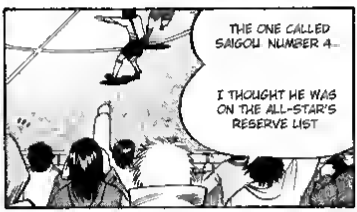


SFX THOOM

KOTONE'S WORDS AT HALF TIME WERE WEARING DOWN HEAVILY...
PUT EVERYTHING INTO THOSE FORTY MINUTES!!
NOT EVEN A CONSI-DERA-TION!
AND, EXTRA TIME?

12

.....
HE HAS A GREAT SPIRIT WHEN IT COMES TO DEFENSE.

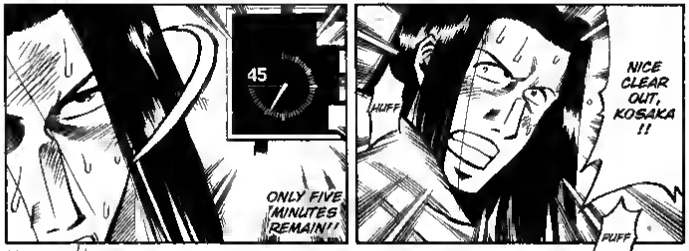

THE ONE CALLED SAIGOU NUMBER 4...
I THOUGHT HE WAS ON THE ALL-STAR'S RESERVE LIST

HIS BACK WAS IN PAIN
.....

IF HE WERE ADDED TO THE YOUTH TEAM...
OUR VERTICAL LINE, WITH SAIGOU, MORIKAWA AND KONDO AS THE BACKBONE, WOULD BE FULLY ESTABLISHED...
WHILE STAYING VERY COOL-HEADED
HE HAS THAT FIRE IN HIM TO STICK TO THE GOAL AT ANY COST

HAHN
HUFF
HOWEVER, NONE OF THEIR ATTEMPTS BROUGHT THEM A GOAL,
THEREAFTER, MIZUMOTO, WITH TEPPEI AT ITS CENTER, PUT ON A DARING OFFENSIVE.
SO THE DEADLOCK CONTINUES—
HUFF
HUFF

HAVE BEEN STOPPED BY KOSAKA WITH THE SAME DESPERATE EFFORT AS SAIGOU
FURTHERMORE, THE OCCASIONAL COUNTER ATTACKS MADE BY JOUNAN
SFX: TOOMF


45
ONLY FIVE MINUTES REMAIN!!
HUFF
NICE CLEAR OUT, KOSAKA !!
PUFF

KASUKABE RUNNING IN FROM THE BACK END RECEIVES THE BALL!!
WE'VE GOT TO
GET TO NATIONALS!!
SFX: PANFF

WE DON'T HAVE ANY MORE STRENGTH TO FIGHT IN OVERTIME!!
WE'VE GOT TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN IN THESE FIVE MINUTES!

TEPPEI...
FROM KOSAKA TO FUKUDA AND ON TO KASUKABE... THIS PASS CONNECTING THEM
IT'S ON YOU!!
HAS DRAWN OUT THAT SAME SENSATION FROM INSIDE TEPPEI !!

18
18
18
18

SAIGOU WAS FAKED OUT!?
AND, AN INSIDE PASS, MOVING LIKE A BULLET...
SHOOTS THROUGH THE GAP BETWEEN DEFENDERS!
NOT UP CLOSE, BUT BABA, FURTHER DOWN!
IF HE CAN GET TO THE BALL, IT'S IN!!
!!
KR RGH
HOWEVER, THE NEAREST PLAYER, NAKAOKA, CAN'T CATCH UP!!
18

SLAM IT IN, BABA!!!
SFX: YESS!
WE
GOT IT DONE!!

WHA
NO, IT'S OUT! BABA MISSED A ONE IN A MILLION CHANCE!!

THE KEEPER WITH A STOIC SAVE!!

20

WE'RE DONE DEFENDING!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THAT FACE

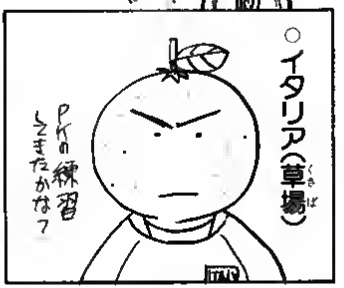
HU FF
HU HN

FANTASISTA

2002.6.10.

おまけまんが

～W杯トト～



みんなで
どこが優勝するか
賭けようということで、
上のような予想に
なりました。
もちろんお金は
賭けません。
ただし罰ゲームが……

～ルール～

一番勝ち残った
チームの人が、
一番最下位のチームの
人に（同順位は得失点差
勝負）好きな絵を
かかせることができる。

**それを次巻の
おまけにのせる!!**

ファンタジスタ⑮

少年サンデーコミックス

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